

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

INTELFAX 9.

DATE ACQUIRED 10/3/52

SUBJECT Reception of Radio Free Europe
Balloons for Freedom

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SUPPLEMENT TO
25X1X REPORT NO.Radio Free Europe Broadcasts

1. The reception of Radio Free Europe broadcasts in Sušice (N50/Q28) has improved considerably, in spite of continued jamming. The best reception is on short wave during the evening hours. The most popular programs seem to be "My to vše" (We know it) and "Vzkazy Domovu" (Messages home). Political comments and speeches from former political leaders now in exile are also eagerly listened to. According to source, the morale of the population has improved as a result of the RFE broadcasts.
2. In Moravia RFE can be heard quite well in spite of jamming. In Hranice (P50/025) the best reception is in the evening on short wave. In Opava (P50/029) the reception is even better than in Hranice and programs can be heard during the day on short* and medium waves. The programs allegedly have had a decisive influence on the morale of the population. "Messages home" is one of the most popular presentations.
3. In Prague (051/L33) and in Horazdovice county Radio Free Europe can hardly be heard. The best reception is after 9:00 P.M. on short wave, but frequently the jamming is so successful that the program cannot be heard at all.

Balloons for Freedom

4. The "Balloons for Freedom" did not have much effect in the Prague area, since most of the leaflets were picked up by police before the people could reach them. Some of the balloons found their way to Modrany (051/L77) and Benesov (050/L95). In general, the contents of the leaflets were unfavorably received, particularly by the intelligentsia, who felt that the messages were written by people who have no contact with Czechoslovakia, and who do not know the present-day situation there.

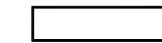
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5. The population of Moravia was informed by radio about the coming balloons, and the people were waiting for them. Balloons did not get as far as Hranice, but a number reached Opava. Some were confiscated by SNB members.
6. Balloons landed in the villages of Zelena Lhota (N50/U98), Chudenice (N50/P91) and Nyrsko (N50/U99), but most of the balloons seemed to drift further inland. Most of those who found some of the leaflets turned them over to the SNB because they were afraid to be found in possession of them.
7. Some of the leaflets landed in Javori (N50/Q18), Horni Tesov (N50/Q13) and Loucny (N50/Q28). Although an order had been passed forbidding the population to touch these leaflets, many were nonetheless picked up before SNB members were able to take prohibitive measures. These then were circulated in other places where they did not land. Teachers instructed school children to collect the leaflets and bring them to school, or to report where balloons had fallen. The entire action was favorably accepted as a note of encouragement from the West.

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